

**MINUTES
of the
OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE ADVISORY GROUP (OHVAG)
of
ARIZONA STATE PARKS
MEETING OF November 7, 2008
Sipe White Mountain Wildlife Area**

A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Rogers called the meeting to order at 2:05pm. Members introduced themselves by way of roll call, and Ms. Shulman announced a quorum.

Committee Members Present: Hank Rogers
 Drew John
 Pete Pfeifer
 Rebecca Antle
 John Savino
 Robert Biegel

Committee Members Absent: Jim Schreiner

Arizona State Parks (ASP) Staff: Amy Racki, OHV Coordinator
 Bob Baldwin, Grants Coordinator
 Ruth Shulman, ASP

Other Individuals Present: Sandee McCullen, former OHVAG member
 Joe Sacco, Arizona Game & Fish Department (AGFD)
 People from Arizona State Land Department

B. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS AND STAFF

This item dispensed with, as roll call consisted of introductions.

C. ACTION ITEMS

- 1. Approval of Minutes from the May 2, 2008 Meeting**
- 2. Recommend New Members to the OHVAG**
- 3. Select an OHVAG Chair and Vice-Chair**

4. Discuss Presentation to Parks Board

5. Status of OHV Fund Recreation Projects

6. Discuss US Forest Service Travel Management Rule

7. Discuss OHV Legislation

8. OHVAG Goals for FY2009 and FY2010

This item tabled until the new ASP budget is finalized. The State of Arizona continues to make cuts during the fiscal crisis.

E. REPORTS

1. Chair's Report

Chair Rogers noted that he was happy the OHV Legislation had passed.

2. Staff Reports

a) Update on ASP Board Actions

The ASP Board took no actions on OHVAG items.

b) Update on USFS Travel Management Rule

Ms. Pike said that the USFS Regional office has made the Travel Management Rule a priority for all National Forests in the region. The Rule for the TNF should be finalized next year. Plans for other National Forests should be completed this fall and next spring.

c) Notification of OHVAG member openings

Ms. Racki noted that recruitment has begun for new OHVAG members, and that this year the membership must recruit one member from a sportsman's group. Recruitment fliers were made available to OHVAG members to distribute. Ms. Antle asked if any applications had been received. Ms. Racki said that none had been received to date, but the deadline is the final Friday in September.

d) Update on Trails 2010 Plan

Ms. Racki said that the Trails 2010 Plan is underway. The random telephone survey of state residents has been completed and preliminary results have come in. Also underway are targeted trails user surveys and a survey of land managers. There is also an open survey available on the ASP website. Several regional focus group meetings have been planned, with land managers

meeting in the morning, and the general public meeting in the evening. Exact locations will be announced closer to the meeting dates.

Regarding the preliminary survey results recently received, Ms. Racki said that of 3,000 respondents, 71% self-identified as trails users. This included 13% motorized trails use by adults. Chair Rogers asked if he could be provided with a copy of the preliminary results; Ms. Racki said she would look into it. Some of the preliminary results for motorized use point to increases in participation. Approximately 70% of the motorized trails users noted that they appreciate more technically challenging trails, and more loop trails. Survey respondents were specifically asked about user conflicts on trails, with the majority (60%) responding that conflicts almost never arise. The greatest conflict appears to occur with recreationists in conflict with ATV users. Other questions gained responses on environmental responsibility (respondents would like to see less litter) and social factors such as urban development erasing trails, and vandalism. Target shooting in riding areas was also brought up as a problem area.

Ms. Racki asked for input from OHVAG and the public to provide examples that could be referenced in the Trails Plan.

F. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Ms. McCullen noted that she had had a conversation with the national coordinator for the Travel Management Rule, Ms. Deirdre St. Louis, at a recent conference. Ms. St. Louis noted that under the “50-inch rule” UTVs will need to be smaller to be acceptable on routes. The feeling is that new UTVs are being built smaller than 50” so they should be allowable. However, Ms. St. Louis noted that the USFS may not allow vehicles of 50” width on their routes. The matter is being left up to the USFS to decide. This could prove to be an issue for the OHV community as a whole, and Ms. McCullen wanted to keep the matter before OHVAG’s eyes. She would like for the members to lobby for consistency and uniformity in how the new Travel Management Rules are applied across land management agencies.

G. SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS, MATTERS OF BOARD PROCEDURE, REQUESTS AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

New agenda items: evaluation responses, update on the 50” rule, update on trails plan survey info. Ms. Racki noted that she will be speaking at the upcoming Arizona Parks & Recreation Association conference on August 28. The conference is being held at the Camelback Resort in Phoenix over August 27-30.

H. TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

The next OHVAG meeting is scheduled for November 7-8, 2008 in Eagar, Arizona. Chair Rogers asked Mr. Sacco to look into reserving the meeting space at the Sipes Ranch for the meeting; Mr. Sacco will follow up.

I. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Biegel moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Pfeifer seconded the motion, which carried with no further discussion. The meeting adjourned at 3:45pm.